

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 SES-02 SSM-05 AID-05 CIAE-00
FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-20 TRSE-00 XMB-04
OPIC-06 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DOE-15 SOE-02
OES-09 ACDA-12 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 L-03 NSC-05
PA-02 SS-15 /150 W

-----075460 101525Z /46

R 101346Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1785
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS KUWAIT 4944

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, KU
SUBJ: COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY PUBLICLY CONFIRMS GOK
BOYCOTT PROCEDURE MODIFICATIONS

REF: (A) KUWAIT 4833, (B) KUWAIT 4919

1. REPORTS IN LOCAL PRESS QUOTE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (MOC)
UNDERSECRETARY ABDUL RAHMAN AL GHUNAIM AS DENYING A NEWS REPORT
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BY THE WEST GERMAN NEWS AGENCY (DPA) FROM BEIRUT THAT KUWAIT
HAS BOWED TO AMERICAN PRESSURES TO RELAX BOYCOTT LAW. THE
UNDERSECRETARY SAID "THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE BASIS OF THE ARAB
BOYCOTT LAW IN KUWAIT, ONLY AN ADJUSTMENT IN PROCEDURES".

2. THE FIRST PRESS REPRTS SEPT. 1, OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
(COM) DECISION TO MODIFY PROCEDURAL ASPECTS OF BOYCOTT PRACTICE

IN KUWAIT NAMED NO OFFICIAL SOURCE, BUT WE WERE ABLE TO CONFIRM THE REPORTS AS PER REF A. AL-GHUNAIM'S SEPT. 7 STATEMENTS ARE THE FIRST PUBLIC CONFIRMATION OF THE CHANGES BY A SENIOR GOK OFFICIAL IN MINISTRY UNDER WHICH BOYCOTT OFFICE COMES.

3. WHILE CLEARLY DEFENSIVE ABOUT ACCUSATIONS THAT KUWAIT BOWED TO ACCOMMODATE U.S. ANTIBOYCOTT LAW, GOK SPOKESMAN AL-GHUNAIM DID NOT RETREAT FROM FORTHRIGHT POSITION CONTAINED IN COM DECISION REPORTED REFS A AND B. AL-GHUNAIM COVERED THE MAJOR PROCEDURAL CHANGES REPORTED POINT BY POINT.

4. COMMENT: WITH THIS PUBLIC CONFIRMATION OF BOYCOTT PROCEDURE CHANGES, GOK, AFTER A TYPICALLY CAUTIOUS ANALYSIS, HAS MOVED DECISIVELY TO REPOSITION ITSELF IN THE COMPANY OF SAUDI ARABIA AND OTHER GULF MODERATES ON THE BOYCOTT, AND IS PREPARED TO DEFEND ITS ACTION.
MAESTRONE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RULES, BOYCOTTS, AMENDMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KUWAIT04944
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780369-0005
Format: TEL
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780983/aaaacqta.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 496d7053-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KUWAIT 4833, 78 KUWAIT 4919
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1490148
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY PUBLICLY CONFIRMS GOK BOYCOTT PROCEDURE MODIFICATIONS
TAGS: ETRD, KU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/496d7053-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014